



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

P.O. BOX 37 • SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT 06784-0037 • (860) 354-6928 • FAX (860) 350-5611

Public Hearing – February 23, 2009 **Environment Committee**

Testimony Submitted by Larry Marsicano
Executive Director, Candlewood Lake Authority

In Support of

SB 569 – AN ACT CONCERNING ENHANCEMENTS TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES ACT

And

HB 5461 – AN ACT PRESERVING AND PROTECTING INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES

The intent of both pieces of legislation is to protect inland wetlands and watercourses and to strengthen the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Act that protect the State's important inland water resources. Connecticut's wetlands and watercourses comprise some of the State's most important natural resources in terms of the ecological, economic, and human health values they provide. In recent years, the job of protecting these resources has become increasingly more difficult with the burden of proof regarding adverse impacts a proposed activity in a regulated area will have falling to Inland Wetland Commissions and with limitations on the relevant information Commissions can consider. This job will only get more difficult as municipalities try to cope with reductions in budgets for outside experts under current economic conditions.

Both bills look to provide the State's Inland Wetland Commissions opportunity to consider all relevant information brought before them. SB 569 also looks to shift the burden of proof to the applicant of the activity proposed within a regulated area. We believe these additional provisions to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Act will better equip our Commissions and result in better protection of our inland water resources, and therefore, are supportive of the bills.